OCT 1 1918

The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Vol. X., No. 490.] FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 1918. [Price 2d.
Registered as a Newspaper.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
It's Only Fair!	234
Equal Pay. A Letter from Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.	234
The Result of the Parliamentary Election in Holland. By Martina J. Kramers	235
Too Much Domesticity. By Madge Mears	235
Back To The Land	236
Reviews	237
Correspondence. Lady Selborne	238
Reports and Notices	239

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All MSS. and letters relating thereto should be addressed to the Editor, The Common Cause, *Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1. Telephone: Museum 2702.]*

Important Notice.

Under the new Paper Restriction Order, the supply of papers on sale or return is prohibited. It will therefore be impossible in future for the public to obtain newspapers WITHOUT GIVING DEFINITE ORDERS. Readers of The Common Cause are therefore urged TO PLACE AN ORDER WITH THEIR NEWSAGENTS IMMEDIATELY, OR TO APPLY FOR The Common Cause TO BE POSTED DIRECT FROM THIS OFFICE.

Notes and News.

Women Suffrage "Part of the International Situation."

President Wilson is making it very clear that in his opinion much of the war *morale* of the United States depends on the action which the Senate takes with regard to the Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution. When writing to Senator Shields, Tennessee, he recently said: "If it were merely a domestic question, or if the times were normal, I would not feel that I could make a direct request of this sort; but the times are far from normal: the fortunes of the nations are so linked together, the reactions upon the thoughts of the world are so sharp, and involve such momentous issues, that I know you will forgive my unusual course, and permit me to beg very earnestly that you will lend your aid in overcoming the difficulties which will undoubtedly beset us if the Amendment is not adopted." A little later, writing to Senator Baird, of New Jersey, the President said: "The whole subject of Women's Suffrage has been much in my mind of late, and has come to seem to be a part of the international situation, as well as being of capital importance to the United States. I believe our present position as champions of democracy throughout the world would be greatly strengthened if the Senate would follow the example of the House of Representatives in passing the pending Amendment. I, therefore, take the liberty of writing to call the matter to your serious attention in this light, and to express the hope that you will deem it wise to throw your vote and influence on the side of this great and now critical reform." These letters have both been made public, and must undoubtedly have a great effect. It will be a subject of great rejoicing to women in all the Allied nations that the President, whose word now counts for so much in the civilised world, has realised that Women's Suffrage is an essential part of democracy, and that until his own country has fully adopted it she cannot put forth her strength in striving for the ideals which he has so much at heart.

Rhodesia and Women's Suffrage.

The Union of South Africa is now the only one of the great self-governing dominions of the British Empire to stand out against Women's Suffrage. But in South Africa, too, there are signs of a change of heart. The Legislative Council of Southern Rhodesia recently passed the following resolution: "That with reference to the petition presented to this Council, praying that this Honourable Council will be pleased to take the necessary steps to extend the franchise to the women of Southern Rhodesia, and for that purpose to fix the requisite qualifications and make provision for registration of their votes to enable them to be enregistered as voters at elections of members of this Honourable Council, this Council records its opinion that the interests of Southern Rhodesia will be advanced by giving effect to the prayer of the Petitioners, and requests the Administration to take the necessary steps to that end prior to the next general election." It is reported that every elected member of the Council spoke in favour of this resolution, and there seems to be little doubt that the women of Southern Rhodesia will soon have votes.

Women Lawyers for New South Wales.

We are interested to learn that Mr. Hall, Attorney-General of New South Wales, is preparing a Bill admitting women to the practice of law. Under the Bill they may also enter Parliament, sit on municipal councils, and act as Justices of the Peace, but they are still excluded from sitting on juries.

Mr. Mead and the Women Police.

We regret to learn that during the hearing of a case at Marlborough Street Police Court on August 24th, the presiding magistrate, Mr. Mead, ordered the women police out of the Court while a woman witness was being heard. When the police woman informed him that her instructions from her own headquarters had been to remain in Court when a woman was giving evidence, he insisted on her going, saying: "It is a most disgraceful thing that you want to come in now." We, on our part, regard Mr. Mead's action and language as a "most disgraceful thing." His anti-feminist attitude is well known, but it would be interesting to understand by what curious perversion of mind he can believe that, in a case where women are forced to give evidence on painful subjects, they should not have the support of members of their own sex.

Women and the Parliamentary Register.

One of the "arguments" that used to be brought forward against women's suffrage was that if women had votes they would not want to use them. This contention has already been signally refuted by the eagerness which women are showing in getting their names on to the new register. We understand that there is some disparity in the interpretation of the lodger vote by the registration officers and the revision courts. In one case the claim of a woman to be qualified rested on her tenancy of a single room furnished with her own furniture, and was allowed without reference to the value of the room or the payment of rent. In another, the deputy registration officer said "it was a question whether rendering service to the father in place of cash payment entitled the daughter to a vote," thus suggesting that the value of the daughter's service to the home might be considered the equivalent to the payment of rent. At Bolton, on the other hand, it was held that a woman lodger must occupy a room or rooms to the value of five pounds. In many parts of the country the same differences of opinion appear to prevail: it is earnestly to be hoped that in view of the evident difficulty in the interpretation of the Act, the widest views will be taken, and that as many as possible of the women who are so eager to exercise the duties of citizenship will be given the opportunity of doing it. There are, in any case, too many women shut out!

IT'S ONLY FAIR!

THE last ten days have seen a conversion of public opinion almost as remarkable as that which took place eighteen months ago in favour of women's suffrage. The principle of equal pay for equal work has been accepted, and as great a step has been taken towards the economic freedom of women, as was taken towards their political freedom when men of all parties accepted the women's suffrage recommendations of the Speaker's Conference.

The rapidity and apparent ease with which this has come about makes it seem almost a portent. Workers in the women's movement know that this change of public opinion like the granting of women's suffrage is really the result of long years of toil. But the fruit of our labours has ripened so suddenly that we can hardly believe our eyes. A few weeks ago we wrote in The Common Cause that equal pay for equal work would be the next crux of the women's movement. A fortnight ago we wrote that the women teachers were engaged in the first great series of battles for this object, and that in "the *years* ahead of us" other women in other parts of the line must take up the offensive. In the *days* that have gone by since then other women have done so, and almost before the battle was well begun *public opinion has accepted the principle*. It has accepted it so readily that it has been impossible not to wonder whether even the first strike was really necessary, whether the 'bus-girls might not have gained the justice which they seek without the hindrance to the life and productivity of the community which is caused by the holding-up of one of the great public services. It is a still graver question whether the railway-women who have since come out, and who appear to have done so without the consent of their Union, did not put a long-suffering public to unnecessary inconvenience and do some harm to a good, and we may add, a popular cause. These are questions which it is hardly possible for anyone outside the organisations involved to answer. We admire the courage and initiative of the girls, and we hope that they do not and will not forget their responsibility to the community, which is chiefly made up of their fellow-workers and the fighting men who have the heaviest burden of effort and suffering to bear. The submission to bad and unjust conditions would have ultimately injured our fighting strength and our national life as much as a strike; no one whose opinion counts has advocated any such submission, but reasonable patience during negotiations is not submission, and some of the trade union leaders who have urged it are men who have done everything to deserve the confidence of the women workers.

The public has *not* urged it; for the public toiling along burning pavements, struggling into black-hole-of-Calcutta tubes, turning away disappointed from shut-up stations, wearing their already war-worn nerves into thinner tatters in frantic efforts to get to their own weary jobs or their own unattainable homes, have had their eyes fixed on the principle of equal pay for equal work and, at least during the 'bus strike, were convinced that the girls were right. It has been a great advantage that the principle of equal pay has now been fought for in an industry carried on in the streets, so that all the people who go about in the streets have been able to see with their eyes that the work is equal. Nobody outside the factories knows what goes on within them, and the equality of the work of men and women teachers is known only to those who take some interest in the educational world; but everybody who has gone about London (except among the few "who keep their own carriage") has seen the 'bus girls running up and down the steps, collecting fares in rain and darkness, controlling angry people, helping feeble ones, in short, doing exactly what men do, and, some people think, doing it even better than the men. Therefore, everywhere during the strike one has heard the same phrases: "How ever shall I get home?" "Oh, I *am* tired," "Oh, this strike does make things difficult! But the girls are right. They do the same work as the men, they ought to get the same pay. *It's only fair.*"

We know from many glorious pages of our past and our present history that if once the British public is convinced that a thing is "only fair" it will put up with a great deal in order to bring it about. London working people are a sort of concentrated essence of British public, and there is no doubt that in this case they have grasped the fact that the women's demand is "only fair" and are prepared to support it. What is perhaps even more remarkable is the way in which opinion in general has suddenly—as it appears—realised that it is not only to the women that equal pay for equal work is "only fair." For years the most enlightened women leaders and the most enlightened trade union leaders have been urging that unequal pay was not only unfair to the women workers, but a grave danger to the men, who might return from the war to find themselves undercut and ousted from their trades by cheap labour; for years they have been saying that the only right and fair way is to give equal pay for equal work, so that in every employment the best worker will get the preference without regard to sex. For years those enlightened ones have seemed to be voices crying in the wilderness. Now, suddenly, the truth has been realised and accepted by the press, by the trade unions and by the men and women in the street. There are, no doubt, other battles ahead, for as we said last week "equality is a good which has not only to be gained but maintained," and it will take men a little while to realise that equal treatment for women in all spheres is the only fair way for all. But the effect of the 'bus women's strike and the way in which it has been supported by the men will be lasting. It is undoubtedly the most important domestic event which has taken place since the coming of women's suffrage.

Equal Pay for Equal Work.

The Women's Case.

The following letter from Mrs. Fawcett appeared in "The Times" of August 27th:—

Sir,—I feel constrained by Mr. Ernest Barker's letter in "The Times" of Thursday to say a few words in defence of the principle "equal pay for equal work." He says the women who make this claim "translate this natural feeling into the metaphysical language of equality and justice; they pass from metaphysics to strikes, and in the name of metaphysics the streets of London are at present empty of omnibuses."

It seems to me that this language bears no relation to the actual facts of the case. The strength of the women's position lay in the fact that when they took up the work of conducting omnibuses they were promised that they should be paid at the same rates as men. The men of the Vehicle Workers' Union also received the promise that the women should not be used to undercut the men. The women struck and the men supported them, because they both considered that this promise had been broken when the Committee on Production withheld from the women the bonus given to the men. Sir George Askwith's Committee, to which the dispute was referred, has supported this view. The women conductors have won their case, they are to receive the same bonus as the men, and the omnibuses have reappeared in the streets of London. I do not see where metaphysics comes in.

In your admirable little article on August 21st it is stated that the one point where the women were to blame was in striking without notice. I am, however, informed that at the end of July the women conductors held a meeting of protest, and announced their intention of "taking drastic action" on August 16th if their protest received no attention. It did receive no attention, and on August 17th work was stopped sectionally. Late that night a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the union took place, the action was approved, and a general strike was called. (See The Common Cause, August 23rd.) Therefore no censure was deserved on the ground of having called a strike without notice.

Only one word more. Mr. Ernest Barker more than once uses the expression that wages are determined by "the basic needs of subsistence." This principle has been largely inoperative in the case of women. Before the war the wages of large masses of women had little relation to the basic needs of existence. Millions of women were working for wages below subsistence level. Those metaphysicians for the first time in their lives have tasted the sweets of a living wage. They welcome the cry of equal pay for equal work; it is they who, as the firstfruits of their experience, emptied the streets of London of omnibuses a week ago and replaced them there yesterday.—Yours obediently,

Millicent Garrett Fawcett.

The Result of the Parliamentary Election in Holland.

By Martina G. Kramers.

Our readers know that, by a strange inconsistency, Dutch women have got eligibility to stand as Parliamentary candidates, but no votes by the new constitution. Yet it is the will of the people to have them recognised as citizens; this is evident from the action of no less than nine political parties, who, urged by public opinion, and wishing to please the electors, have put twenty-three women on the lists of candidates. The places on the lists given to women show sufficiently that they really meant them to be elected, although in no case a woman occupied the first place, owing to the generally adopted method of putting the names of ex-deputies first.

Dr. Aletta Jacobs, the President of the Women's Suffrage Association, was third on her list; Mrs. van Balen-Klaar, our vice-President, was fourth on hers; Mrs. Tjoden-van der Vlies was second on that of the Christian-Socialists, and the Social Democrats had put up no less than seven candidates, of whom Miss Suze Groeneweg had the third place in Rotterdam, and Mrs. Carrie Pothuis Smit the fourth in Amsterdam. The rest of the twenty-three women occupied different places, but there was no great chance for them, as their parties were either very small or newly formed, or their rank on the list was not a promising one.

The election took place on July 3rd. This was the first time that our country saw the results of proportional representation, manhood suffrage and compulsory voting, three reforms which each of them in its measure have contributed to the results.

To make voting easy for the new electors, with the thirty-one lists that had been presented, the party whips had proclaimed that it was best to put a mark before the first name on the list, so the voters had only to remember the number of their preferred list, to make their vote effective for the series of names as proposed by the party. The great majority of the electors followed this advice, but many others gave votes of preference to other candidates than number one on the list, and so nearly 11,000 showed their preference for women candidates, which, indeed, is not a great number considering that the total number of votes cast was 1,344,209. The antis lost no occasion of taunting us by saying that evidently less than one among a hundred men in Holland wanted women in the Chamber or women in politics. The suffragists and the Press Bureau of Rotterdam showed the fallacy of this argument by pointing to the overwhelming majorities that had shown their approval of the parties' action in giving women pretty good chances of being elected as far as their powers went.

The result of the election is an increase of the Roman Catholics and a still greater increase of the Social Democrats, whereas the Liberals and their various fractions have lost much influence. Therefore it is no wonder that the Social Democrats are the only group in our Parliament that has a woman among its members.

The first woman M.P. in the Netherlands is Miss Suze Groeneweg, a teacher of a board-school in Rotterdam. She is well calculated to bring the needs of the people and of women before the legislators of the country, and though she is not a member of the Women's Suffrage Association, judging it superfluous to support an organisation which stands for one particular point of the Social Democrat programme, the Women's Suffrage Association sent her hearty congratulations on her election.

The woman candidate who polled most votes was our President, Dr. Aletta Jacobs. Her votes of preference numbered 569.

The Women's Suffrage Association will now inaugurate a thorough campaign for civic instruction of its members in order to qualify many women for the municipal elections next spring. With various parties in favour of the citizenship of women, as shown by the recent elections, we cannot fail to get many women into Town Councils.

Too Much Domesticity.

"I do not believe that women are to be 'educated to be wives and mothers' in any sense in which it is not equally imperative to educate boys to be husbands and fathers. I believe that each human being, developed to his or her best and utmost, will most perfectly fulfil the duties that God may appoint in each case; and if teachers and parents have ever before their eyes the aim of making good, true and sensible women, I do not fear but they will also train the best wives and mothers."
—Sophia Jex-Blake.

These are supremely wise words; and it is doubly necessary that we should bear them in mind when we shall very shortly have before us the question of the type of education to be supplied to both boys and girls of the "new school age"—fourteen to sixteen, and presently fourteen to eighteen. Personally, I confess my heart sank a little when I saw that in the Tootal "works school," ostensibly a model of its kind, the boys were to enjoy an advanced curriculum of drawing, geography, mathematics, &c., whilst the girls were to receive instruction in "domestic subjects." No doubt the same idea will occur to a good many people with more or less influence on our Education Committees; and the girl's final two years of education will not be grudged so long as she emerges, in the end, as a capable cook or nurserymaid.

It may be argued that some knowledge of cooking and laundry work is more likely to be useful to the average working girl than a knowledge of history or English literature; but that depends very much upon the way in which these subjects are taught. A young woman who has to battle with the ordinary British builder's idea of a kitchen range will not gain much from scientific instruction over the latest pattern in ovens with a regulated temperature and glass doors. And, as a working woman once said to me in a tone of deep disgust: 'They've spent this week teaching my Jenny to boil a cauliflower and clean the saucepan, as if I couldn't teach her that at home! *That's* not what we send the children to school for!"

Certainly, until we live in standard homes fitted with a State minimum of labour-saving apparatus, the work of the house varies so enormously from one house to another that standardised instruction is apt to be, very often, rather a waste of time. Of course this does not apply to needlework, which may very usefully be taught in the schoolroom to those pupils who show any genuine wish to learn it. And both girls and boys require a great deal more instruction in what might be described as elementary domestic physics—they ought to know why the pipes freeze, and why the chimney smokes, and why the boiler bursts, and what to do in order to avoid these unpleasant incidents. It is amazing how many men and women flounder through life with absolutely no knowledge of what countryfolk call "the natur' of things"—really valuable knowledge, calculated to save them a considerable amount of trouble and discomfort!

It is very doubtful, too, whether specialised teaching of what is commonly called "mothercraft" is particularly desirable for little girls. As a rule they are fond of babies, and like tending them and playing with them; but it is equally true that most small daughters of working-class homes have quite enough of these duties out of school hours. And it is certainly most inadvisable to concentrate a child's thoughts too much upon her own potential functions as a wife and mother at an age when, left to herself, she would be far more interested in hockey and cycling and climbing trees. Children are not quite such fools as we sometimes think they are; their minds do not work in water-tight compartments; and if we give a girl's education too strong a twist in the direction of motherhood and domesticity, we must not grumble if she turns out a flighty and unreliable worker later on, always looking over the edge of her job in search of a "nice boy" and a little home of her own. Alas, during the coming generation there will be a lamentable shortage of nice boys and little homes; and the average young woman had better turn her thoughts in the direction of some interesting and self-supporting work where, if necessary, she may be independent and contented as a spinster.

And is there any reason why our newly-enfranchised citizens should not devote at least a part of their last two years at school to sound, unbiassed, *modern* instruction in political economy? It is really far more useful to understand something about Local Government business, and its relation to wider questions of national policy, than to learn how many calories make a carrot, or the correct way to wash and dress a large india-rubber doll.

At present every local political organisation must spend a heart-breaking amount of time taking both male and female electors through the A B C of their country's government;

and now that women are being elected and co-opted, in ever-increasing numbers, to every municipal committee, it is especially desirable that they should have some idea of the routine business likely to come before them, in order that they may make their influence felt in the most effective manner. And this instruction should be wide enough to cover a certain amount of simple common law; especially in so far as it relates to such everyday questions as rent, wage contracts, life insurance, and the Workman's Compensation Acts. So many innocent people find themselves involved in financial difficulties through ignorance of these elementary details; and the place to learn better is at school.

There has been a movement of late years to provide a little instruction in the equally necessary matter of personal hygiene and public health; though here again there seems a tendency to specialise far too much upon questions of sex. It is quite as important for a young man or woman to learn how not to catch tuberculosis as how not to catch venereal disease!

I have touched merely upon severely practical subjects; since the ordinary ratepayer, if he consents to provide an extra two or four years' schooling for our future citizens, may do so more graciously if he can actually see with his own eyes that he is getting his money's worth in increased intelligence and efficiency. But we should also remember that for very many boys and girls their school will supply the only glimpse they will ever have of poetry, music, or literature; and the influence of these things, though less tangible, may be quite as valuable. And we should keep a wary eye upon proposals for physical education which do not provide equal opportunities for both sexes to develop their bodily powers together with their brains. The working lad has been shockingly neglected in this way hitherto; but he can play cricket and football on the nearest brickfield in the evenings, and go swimming in the canal, whilst his sister must mind the baby or help her mother with the washing; and the result may be seen in the pale faces and lumpish figures of the majority of working women to-day. A few tennis-courts and a swimming-bath may perhaps do as much for the "mothers of the future" as any other boon we could provide!

Madge Mears.

Back to the Land.

"Beg pardon, miss," said the humorous porter, sceptically eyeing the National Land Service armlets, "but you two ladies aren't going to work on the land, are you?"

"Rather! Going to sleep in a barn!"

"And what about the rats and mice? Well, I don't think ladies a few years ago——"

But the guard's whistle cut short his ruminations, and the train steamed out of the station towards one of the areas which keep London markets supplied with vegetables and fruit.

* * * * * *

"You're Greenwood, aren't you? I'm the Gang Leader. Come in," said the apparition at the barn door. It was wearing the ordinary at-home dress of landworkers, namely pyjamas, and was smoking a cigarette. Its short hair was slightly dishevelled.

"That's my cubicle; yours is next door," it said, indicating a gap in the sacking screen which ran along one side of the barn, with the inscription over it, "Merton, at the sign of Ye Olde Greene Cow."

"Well, I hope you'll like your beds," pointing to a couple of sacks, one of which did duty as mattress and the other as pillow. "Good-night. Silence hours begin at nine o'clock, you know, as we have to start at six."

* * * * * *

"Half-past five, ladies." It was the foreman outside the barn door.

"Buck up, Orderly," came from the Gang Leader's cubicle.

A figure in a dressing-gown emerged, rubbing her eyes, and ran across to the cookhouse to boil the kettle for tea. The morning bustle began. The two newcomers hurried over to the washing-shed, but found that they had only time to wash their faces and hands under the hose-pipe. Back in the barn some people were cutting themselves hunks of bread and spreading them with jam, while others put on boots, leggings, or puttees, and the orderly ran round filling large mugs with tea.

"Rotten luck being orderly," said a girl in shirt and breeches, who stood next to Smudge Greenwood. "There's the lorry. Help me with this grub tin."

In a few minutes the whole twenty were squeezed into the lorry, some swinging their legs over the back, others squatting on sacks and hugging their knees.

"Comfy?" said the Gang Leader to Ethel, the second newcomer, who was sitting on an upturned basket. There was a large hole in the wicker-work, and at every jolt Ethel sank further in, but she would have died rather complain.

"Sixteen," said a girl at the back, who was waving to the people on the road and counting their answers. "It counts two if they raise their hats."

"What are you reading, Phil?"

A girl who had not yet spoken looked up from her magazine: "It's a story about landwork," she said. "I've just got to the point where Rosalie refused to eat the plenteous repast because 'the farmer's wife had provided neither fruit knives nor finger-bowls,' and then 'donning her fresh white muslin smock she tripped out to tend her feathered friends.'"

* * * * * *

Down the long furrow came the plough, leaving a wide trail of potatoes behind it. "Take that cant. Wares into that basket, chats into that," said the Gang Leader, with which explicit orders she hurried up the field, leaving Smudge to watch the others and then, like them, pick up and sort the potatoes hastily. Before she had half finished she heard the jangle of the plough coming up behind again, and began to pick up furiously, while the horses waited near the stick which marked the beginning of her "cant" or section. Another girl, who had finished, came and helped her. Then on went the plough again and, after a minute, it seemed, round and up the next furrow.

"'If fifty maids in fifty smocks,'" quoted the girl next to Smudge,

"'Picked up for half a year,
'Do you suppose,' the ploughman said,
'That they could get it clear?'
'I doubt it,' said the farmer's son,
And shed a ——"

Dash it, there's the plough again."

Ethel's neighbour, hastily gathering up her last few chats, staggered across to empty her basket into the nearest bushel, as the plough started on her cant again. "Do you remember," she said, "a *silly* poster called 'Speed the plough'?"

* * * * * *

"Do you ever do anything except potatoes?" asked Smudge, when, at eight o'clock, they walked over to the hedge and unpacked their breakfast.

"We started with raspberries," said Phil, who was rapidly spreading great slabs of bread with margarine and treacle. "I say, you must have two eggs. Then there's weeding, hoeing, picking up windfalls, gathering apples, and sometimes forking. But they make rather a point of potatoes here. It looks as if we could supply all London."

"Then what shall we do when we've finished this field?" asked Smudge, looking lugubriously at the narrow strip of brown which they had done.

"Do another," said the Gang Leader, thickly, through her bread-and-treacle.

Ethel was pensive. "I used to be sorry they beheaded Sir Walter Raleigh," she observed.

* * * * * *

From nine to one they worked again, with a break of fifteen minutes, when everyone dropped on to her furrow and lay stretched out in the hot sun. At two o'clock they began again and went on stoically till five.

"Stiff?" said Phil to Smudge, who raised herself gingerly from her stooping position at the end of the day. "Never mind, it's bath night. We go over to the farm and have them in an outhouse. You're going second, so you'll have time for tea first. It always takes the first couple a long time, because they have to kill the black-beetles. I think it must be the smell of the onions that attracts them," she added thoughtfully.

"The onions?"

"We have baths in onion tanks. In you get."

* * * * * *

"I wonder——" said Smudge, slowly, as she rubbed herself with Anti-Mosquito Lotion.

"What?" came sleepily from Ethel's mattress.

"Well, potato-pickers in books are always the lowest of the low, aren't they? and it's always said to be so deadening and all that. If everybody could change round——"

"Who's that talking?" came sternly from the Gang Leader. "Greenwood? Very well, it's after silence hours. You can be orderly to-morrow. Good-night."

E. M. Martin.

Reviews.

Housing: The Need for Reform: A Call to Church and Nation. By C. L. Acres. (Church League for Women's Suffrage, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C. 2. Price 4d.)

"At a Conference of Church Workers some time ago, the subject of housing was mentioned for discussion. Someone present remarked: 'I vote we leave the subject severely alone. It is not our job.' I venture to differ. It is our 'job.' It is the Church's job."

These words of Mr. Harold Anson's are quoted in the pamphlet issued by the Church Army League for Women's Suffrage, entitled "*Housing: The Need for Reform: A Call to Church and Nation,*" and the League does well to adopt so sound a basis for its publications.

The opening sentences of the pamphlet show that common sense can go hand in hand with idealism. The cry of harassed housewives up and down the country is echoed: "Oh, for a house designed by a woman! Naught else will eliminate these needless steps, this waste room, these dark corners, lurking-places for dirt and disease." Practical as this suggestion is, we believe it expresses after all only half a truth, and that the best houses of the future will be designed by persons of insight and imagination, and, not least, of great technical skill, indifferently of either sex, but with a knowledge of the sordid drudgery entailed upon a family, and especially upon a mother, by designs exhibiting ignorance of the domestic problems a housewife has to solve. This can only come about when the best type of woman enters the profession of architecture, and becomes the professional comrade of men architects. Suffragists know that no bird can fly with one wing.

The League enters bravely upon a hotly disputed matter in urging that the Church should not only engender spiritual aspirations in her members, but should call upon them to support concrete reforms in the State. On this assumption, it is her concern that about one and a half million new houses are computed to be required in the next ten years, to repair wastage and provide for the new generation.

The following quotation shows that it is time for citizens, whether Churchmen or not, to be moving:—"What of the water supply in most villages? Very few village bedrooms contain a fireplace, to mention one detail. Imagine nursing under such conditions, in the depth of winter, a maternity case or a pneumonia patient. Again, sanitary arrangements are inadequate. In one case stated there were three sanitary offices provided for forty-four cottages. . . . *So scarce are houses that the jerry builder of the neighbouring town is looked upon as a philanthropist.* As one man said to Mr. F .E. Green: "Housing Acts put no roof over our heads. You don't build cottages with your Acts, that's the trouble; you only close them." "In four years the Town Planning Act has laid its ban on 33,453 cottages and created only 300 new ones." ("Tyranny of the Country Side.")

For remedy, the pamphlet proposes: (*a*) That the rural problem be faced first—houses provided and "*agricultural and industrial opportunities* [*made*] *available for he new settlers.*" (*b*) That ugly, ill-designed buildings be taboo; that while a well considered national scheme is being worked out temporary buildings be erected such as are being put up in London for Government offices. In this connection we would urge the League to issue another pamphlet dealing with the artistic as well as the domestic aspects of the problem. The country side is made glorious by the village churches our ancestors have put up, each characteristic of its locality, with its local stone, its local detail, rich with its local history: let the Church men and women of to-day show that the same spirit is alive now, and let the country side become rich again with civic buildings for the private citizen, clustering round new and beautiful Trade Guild Halls or what not—all to the glory of God.

The pamphlet concludes with a list of societies interested in housing. People of good will should get into touch with these. Then let them arrange study circles and debates, and rouse up public opinion by means of the local Press—and pulpits.

A. H. W.

The Place of the Voluntary Worker in Civic Life and Social Work. By J. H. Heighton. (Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton Kent & Co., Ltd., 4, Stationers' Hall Court, E.C. Price 3d.)

Mr. Heighton's pamphlet, *The Place of the Voluntary Worker*, originally formed one of ten lectures on Educational and Social Reconstruction arranged by the Oxford Extension Delegacy in 1917. He begins by pointing out that

"Even in that highest development of organisation which we call Government, from its central power—where the Paymaster-General, of all people, is unpaid—to the smallest detail of local administration, the 'volunteer' does his work."

Mr. Heighton claims an honourable place for the volunteer, and holds that he has a freshness and power of initiative which should fit him for experimental work. For this reason he deprecates such "over-training" as might result in the worker losing his "original impulse" and becoming "harrowed by preconceived ideas and stereotyped methods."

The following passages give the main argument of this pamphlet in regard to organisation of voluntary effort, and of what is vaguely known as "social work" generally:—

"A reorganisation of social work is urgently required throughout the whole of England. We do not know what may be in front of us after the war, or even during the war, and it is more than time we got our house in order.

"The first step in reorganisation should be a complete survey, nationally and locally, of all openings for every kind of personal service. This survey might be undertaken voluntarily or by the State. If voluntarily, the new Joint Committee on Social Service would be the most likely body to undertake such work, provided it had sufficient funds placed at its disposal for the purpose. On the other hand, there is much to be said for the State undertaking such a survey. It seems inevitable that ultimately some Government department will have to be responsible, in greater or less degree, for the co-ordination of all forms of assistance, more particularly for supplying information and guidance.

No doubt such a survey might be of use in promoting the special

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object the author has in view—that of efficient administration, but we doubt very much whether regimentation, either under Government or under some modern substitute for the Charity Organisation Society, can ever be a real success. There are certain large, free spirits who move, whether in the political or the administrative sphere, a little in advance of what already is: who are always "becoming" rather than being. A regimentation which included them must be admirably planned indeed, a regimentation which left them out would gradually find itself in the rear of social progress.

Certain forms of State aid are the due of all citizens, but charity chained to an official bureaucracy must lose its savour.

Let all this be as it may be, the pamphlet should be read by those responsible for any form of social work, and perhaps most of all by those most impatient of their fellow-workers and most inclined to feel that they alone see the true light. Mr. Heighton incorporates in his paper valuable comments on the right of the volunteer to his place by the side of the professional, of the various forms of training open to him, of the personnel of Committees, and on other matters essential to efficiency.

A. H. W.

Counter-Attack. By Siegfried Sassoon. (Heinemann. 2s. 6d. net.)

It must be said that on the whole it is not poetry that Mr. Sassoon writes. Firstly, too many of his verses produce the effect of poems that are half cries, forced from the lips of one who witnesses and experiences almost intolerable agony; second, in his ironic and outwardly calm moments he is too epigrammatic; and thirdly, when he writes blank verse he writes prose. And yet *Counter-Attack* almost defies criticism; it bludgeons the readers mind with the force of appalled and appalling sincerity. The poet has perhaps heard and read too much of the romance, the glamour of war, "the great adventure"; he shows us the reverse of the medal; and unless we who are in comparative safety and in comfort recognise and face the reverse of the medal—the physical and mental horror and degradation and agony of warfare, in all its dreadful detail—we are not worthy to be fought for by Mr. Sassoon and his comrades.

Comradeship is one of the things that shines out in *Counter-Attack* from the overwhelming horror; in "Sick Leave" and "Banishment" we feel the strong tie that binds the poet to those of whom he writes:

> "I am banished from the patient men who fight;
> They smote my heart to pity, built my pride."

And the sonnet ends:

> ". . . . Love drove me to rebel.
> Love drove me back to grope with them through hell;
> And in their tortured eyes I stand forgiven."

This poem, with "Invocation," "Together," and one or two others, constitute the small group of verses in *Counter-Attack* which are poetry; the rest strike the reader as merely raw material, produced in the urgent necessity for self-expression. It seems probable that this small group is the result of experience viewed in retrospect, at leisure; and that this is why they are not only, like the others, the utterly sincere expression of intensely felt emotion, but also they are poetry, they are art. They show that though filled with indignation against ugliness the poet has not forgotten to adore loveliness: he cries in "Invocation":—

> "Mute in that golden silence hung with green,
> Come down from heaven and bring me in your eyes
> Remembrance of all beauty that has been,
> And stillness from the pools of Paradise."

Nor, though entangled in the nightmare of war and hate, does he forget peace and love; there is no bitterness, only touching simplicity in "Together," which ends:—

> "He's jumped each stile along the glistening lanes;
> His hand will be upon the mud-soaked reins;
> Hearing the saddle creak
> He'll wonder if the frost will come next week.
> I shall forget him in the morning light;
> And while we gallop home he will not speak:
> But at the stable-door he'll say good-night."

E. B. C. J.

The Sad Years: Poems. By Dora Sigerson (Mrs. Clement Shorter). (Constable. 5s. net.)

In a poem called "The Loiterer" the late Mrs. Clement Shorter wrote:—

> "Beyond his window beauty breaks to flower":

and this phrase is applicable to a small portion of her writings; in most of her verse there is the suggestion, but not the fulfilment—the tantalizing elusive scent of beauty, not the flower itself. There is much in *The Sad Years* that is sad, and yet not profoundly touching, not even musically pathetic:—

> "How can I go forth again to the hot and restless town,
> Where the stranger people pass ever careless up and down,
> Where convention chills each hand from a kind and friendly hold.
> Here the robin to my call cheerful comes, alert and bold."

This, like many other of her verses, is merely prosaic sing-song, and the second line aggravates the case by challenging comparison with A. E. Houseman's simple moving lyric:—

> "There pass the careless people
> Who call their souls their own."

And yet, where, not only beyond her window, but under her touch, "beauty breaks to flower," the result is haunting. After a first reading one cannot quite remember, one cannot possibly forget, "The Sacred Fire" and "They Did Not See Thy Face"; one is forced to go back, to re-read, possibly to learn by heart words that have a lilt, a yearning love, a sorrowful noble pride. These two poems are the work not only of a passionate patriot but also of a poetess; it is Ireland who brings her usually rather insignificant bud to lovely flower, who makes her small, smoky fragrant wood-fire "break into a flame":—

> "And who dare quench the sacred fire, and who dare give them blame,
> Since he who draws too near the glow shall break into a flame?
> They lit a beacon in their land, built of the souls of men,
> To make thee warm one more, Kathleen, to bid thee live again."

Thus ends the "Sacred Fire."

This final volume of Mrs. Shorter's is well-named: scarcely one page of it is gay. She seems to have been obsessed by the prevision of her death as much as by the tragedy of war and the sorrows of Ireland. There is one lyric, however, that has a tender gaiety, "To Bid Her Live," from which we take two stanzas:—

> "Bring all the sweets of June,
> Pale viola and rue,
> Garlands of fragrant roses, pink and white.
> The young birds' broken tune,
> The larkspur gold and blue,
> Let in the gentle harping of the night.
>
> When russet Autumn comes,
> Lad's love and lavender
> Fling on her bed. Go, shake red apples down,
> Sun-kissed and purple plums,
> The sweet and luscious pear,
> Bring her on leaves of crimson, green, and brown."

E. B. C. J.

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Correspondence.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

Madam,—In the letters which have been written to the Common Cause about the provision of houses after the war, not one has attempted to deal with the question of cost. And yet to make one's plans for anything without taking this into consideration is to act like a child. There are some who consider that the State should build the houses and let them, not at commercial rents, but at rents the tenants can afford to pay. If this plan were followed, it would, of course, stop all private building, so the provision of houses would soon be entirely in the hands of the public authorities. Are these authorities to be local or central? Are we prepared for such a wide scheme as this with its necessary concomitants of heavy rates or taxes, and armies of officials? If, on the other hand, we contemplate the retention of private activity in building, how are we going to manage the State subvention so that it does not drive out the private builder?

If we are going to depend entirely on public enterprise, how is the money to be found for starting new waterworks all over the country, electric plants for the provision of light, cooking, etc., to country villages? Will the tenants be able or willing to pay the commercial rent on buildings erected with these conveniences? Whichever way we answer these questions they have got to be faced, and I am very much disappointed that Mrs. Sanderson Furniss ignores them so completely. I hope some of your correspondents will let us have some practical scheme. It would be quite interesting if it was worked out on pre-war prices. Of course, we know we should have to add very considerably to the amount needed, but as wages will probably bear a very similar proportion to the cost of building that they did before the war, and as the higher wages will also enable people to spend more on their rents, and to bear higher rates, the problem worked out at pre-war rates, which we know, would give us some foundation for future speculations.

Maud Selborne.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
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Headquarter Notes.

Treasurer's Note.

The holidays are nearly over, and the officers of our Societies will soon be returning to their homes and will undoubtedly be calling a meeting of their Committees. We urge them to put before their members our very great need of funds at Headquarters for our autumn campaign, which will include work against Regulation 40. (D) D.O.R.A. and work for the Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, and for many other measures to extend to women fuller opportunities in professional and industrial life. For this important work of pressure and propaganda we *must* have funds, and a sufficient amount could soon be raised if eachSociety would do its share. Several have already promised to hold Jumble Sales during the autumn, and several who cannot manage Sales have sent us a donation instead, including Southport, and the recently affiliated Society of Petersfield, in addition to those already mentioned in the COMMON CAUSE. Will YOU not help us now by organising a Jumble Sale, or by promising to raise money for us in some other way? We want the promises soon to lay before the September meetings of the Executive Committee, so that they may know how much of the work agreed on at Council meetings by your Delegates can be undertaken and efficiently carried out. We are holding over the list of contributions this week, but we hope to start September with a good list next week. What can you give?

Literature Department.

NEW LEAFLETS: "Women and the Service and Lodger Votes," price 1s. 6d. per 100. "Women War Workers and Their Votes," price 1s. 6d. per 100.

These leaflets explain the qualifications necessary for the Lodger, Service, and War-Work vote.

NEW PAMPHLETS: "The National Union and Reconstruction," price 2d., which sets forth the Union's Aims and Programme, and "Women Citizen's Association Handbook," by Miss Violet Eustace, price 6d., which, as can be seen from the following list of its sub-headings, is an invaluable aid for actual or intending officers and members of Women Citizens' Associations:—

(1) How to Start.
(2) Model Rules.
(3) The Taking of Public Action
(4) Organisation of Meetings, etc.
(5) Duties of Officers.

The Appendix includes, among other things, a list of organisations to be approached when an Association is being formed; of societies from which speakers and literature can be obtained, and a bibliography of books on the objects of special interest to the Women Citizens' Associations

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N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS AND AMERICAN RED CROSS.

A further grant of 50,000 dollars has been forwarded this week to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, from Major Endicott, Red Cross Commissioner in Britain, acting for the American Red Cross, Washington. The donation was sent through Sir Robert A. Hudson, G.B.E., Chairman of the Finance Committee of the British Red Cross. This magnificent donation, the first instalment of a grant of 150,000 dollars, again marks the esteem in which the work of the S. W. H. is held by the American Red Cross, besides being a renewed proof of the enthusiastic interest raised by Miss Kathleen Burke in her continued tour in America and Canada.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, much new work being undertaken, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S. W. H., Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Unit to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or to Miss Gosse, Joint Hon. Treasurers, S. W. H., 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

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"A. R. D."	1	0	0
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*Clerks in the Claims and Record Office, Kew, per Miss Janet Smith, for "Claims and Record Office, Kew" Bed	5	10	0
*"Glasgow Evening News" Fund, per J. Murray Smith, Esq., Editor, per Sir John S Samuel	9	1	6
Major Robert Stirling, R.A.M.C., T.F. (Serbians), per Mrs Russell	25	0	0
Forward as per list to August 15th, 1918	345,934	5	5
Further donations received to August 22nd, 1918:—			
*Thos. Kirkhope, Esq.	10	0	0
*"Two Friends," Edinburgh ...	5	0	0
John Sharp, Esq., for "Trinity Heroes" Bed (Royaumont)	1	0	0
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Result of Entertainment given by the young people staying at Crawford Hotel during first two weeks of August, per Mrs M. Hood Wilson	10	0	0
Parish of Mortlach Free Gift Sale, per John Young, Esq., Jnt. Treasurer, Commercial Bank of Scotland, Ltd., Dufftown	5	0	0
*Per Miss E. Rachel Jamieson, Organiser, S.W.H.: *Workmen's Scheme*: Employees, Carron Iron Works, Carron, Falkirk (£25). Employees, Messrs. M. P. Galloway, Leith, per W. How, Esq. (£7). *Employees, Messrs. Thomson & Porteous, Greenside, Leith Street, Edinburgh (£3 6s. 9d.). *Employees, Messrs. McTaggart, Scott & Co., Station Ironworks, Loanhead, per J. Laurie (£3 1s. 7d.). *Women Clerks Accountant's Office, G.P.O., Edinburgh, per Miss Sutherland (£2 1s.). Firm of Messrs. Baird, The Tannery, Falkirk (£1)	41	9	1
*American Red Cross Society, per Major W. Endicott, American Red Cross Commissioner for Great Britain, per Sir Robert Hudson, G.B.E., Chairman of the Finance Committee, British Red Cross Society, London, per Miss Kathleen Burke (1st instalment new grant of 150,000 Dollars made to the Hospitals) (50,000 Dollars)	10,484	11	1
*Per Miss Isabelle Kerr, local Hon. Sec., S.W.H., Greenock (26th instalment from "Waste Paper and Waste Material Scheme")	100	0	0
*"I. D. M.," Hereford	1	0	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: *Employees, Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (92nd contribution) ...	2	14	1
Mrs. A. Brander	4	0	0
*Miss S. F. Powell (Girton and Newnham Unit)	12	0	
American Tea held under the auspices of the Cousland Women's Rural Institute, per Mrs. Annie E. Crichton, Treas., Cousland, Dalkeith ...	29	15	0
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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MISS MAUDE ROYDEN preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, next Sunday, at the 6 p.m. service. Subject: "The Beauty of Common Things."

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Printed (and the Trade supplied) by the NATIONAL PRESS AGENCY LTD., Whitefriars House, Carmelite St., London, E.C. 4, for the Proprietors, THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., and Published at Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. *London:* George Vickers. *Manchester:* John Heywood; Abel Heywood & Son; W. H. Smith & Son. *Newcastle-on-Tyne:* W. H. Smith & Son. *Edinburgh and Glasgow:* J. Menzies & Co. *Dublin and Belfast:* Eason & Son.